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May 5, 1994

VIA HAND DELIVERY

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

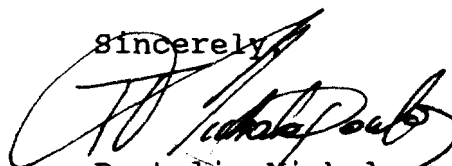
Mr. William F. Caton
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Room 222
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Amendment of the Commission's Rules to
Establish Rules and Policies Pertaining to a
Mobile Satellite Service in the
1610-1626.5/2483.5-2500 MHz Frequency Bands
CC Docket No. 92-166

Dear Secretary Caton:

For filing in the above-captioned proceeding, I am attaching an original and 5 copies of a letter dated April 21, 1994 from Mr. Jose A. Aponte of the American Red Cross to Ms. Judith D. Corse of IRIDIUM, Inc. The letter articulates the strong support of the American Red Cross for the proposed Low-Earth-Orbit Mobile Satellite Service ("LEO MSS") systems, and in particular the IRIDIUMTM/SM Communications System proposed by Motorola Satellite Communications, Inc. The letter notes the unique advantages of the LEO MSS technology for the provision of telecommunications services associated with emergency medical and other humanitarian relief.

Sincerely,



Pantelis Michalopoulos

/srh-m
Enclosure

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American Red Cross

National Headquarters
Washington, DC 20006

April 21, 1994

Ms Judith D. Corse
Manager, Marketing Program Development
IRIDIUM Incorporated
1410 H Street NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Judy:

My colleagues and I of the American Red Cross are grateful to you for the demonstration of Iridium's low earth orbit satellite communication system. Such a system would clearly assist us as we deliver emergency medical and other humanitarian relief to geographically dispersed areas both in the US and overseas.

The greatest need for our services frequently arises in areas where ready access to communications systems is lacking, either because the communications infrastructure has been destroyed by an event of calamitous proportions or because it is simply inadequate. Further, our time-sensitive operations are often hindered by the difficulty of promptly reporting the occurrence of a hazardous or life-threatening situation and coordinating the humanitarian assistance required with governmental, international, and private voluntary agencies. In addition, communicating with large numbers of geographically dispersed relief personnel, constantly on the move, has proven yet another obstacle to our operations.

The system you have demonstrated would suit our operations in two ways.

First, the availability of a hand held communications device, that facilitates ready response, is central to our operating requirements. The ability to dispatch a team of relief personnel, that can instantaneously establish a communications link not affected by damage to the local infrastructure, is an extremely critical attribute, one that would undoubtedly save time, therefore lives, and money. As my colleagues and I understand the technology, low earth orbit satellites would enable truly portable hand-held voice communication.

Second, the ability to communicate with geographically dispersed personnel, who are not stationery, is another central operating requirement of the American Red Cross. A single phone number would be ideal to reach the relief worker, wherever he or she may be. We understand, from your demonstration, that a hand held instrument, such as Motorola's Iridium handset, would assure constant communications and reduce, if not eliminate, the amount of time we are out of contact with our field staff during critical periods. We further understand that low earth orbit satelllites, with geolocation, would permit this beneficial level of communication to mobile relief workers from a central location and, just as importantly, from one mobile relief worker to another.

My colleagues and I wish you every success in securing the appropriate governmental authorization to implement this admirable system. Please feel free to use this letter, in that process, as you may see fit.

Sincerely,


Jose A. Abente
General Manager
International Services